

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 7, No. 48

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Dec. 30, 2005

## 2005 Year in Review



Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

### Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



74°/57°  
Today



74°/58°  
Saturday



74°/57°  
Sunday

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Marine Corps'  
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# 3rd MAW provides security, transport during elections

Story by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Combat Correspondent

ALASAD, Iraq — The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing played a vital, yet largely unseen role in support of the January 2005 Iraqi elections.

Transportation of elections materials and workers throughout the Al Anbar province was largely the responsibility of the 3rd MAW team.

“We were tasked with moving Iraqi elections workers and ballots to their polling stations,” said Maj. Rod A. Funk, operations officer, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

VMGR-452 took extra precautions to guarantee a safe mission in the face of insurgents who threatened to sabotage the elections.

“We planned for a worse case scenario,” said Funk, a 40-year-old native of Lancaster, Pa. “We even trained ‘provisional air marshal teams’ to be security for the election workers.”

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, with their AH-1W Super Cobras also helped ensure safe elections by providing aerial security in the northwestern areas of the province.

“We were responsible for the security of numerous towns surrounding Korean Village,” said Capt. Jeff J. Meisenger, pilot, HMLA-367. “We try to make the ground guys’ job as easy as possible.”

Marines and Iraqi National Guardsmen already had a lot to worry about on the ground, so the added security in the air eases some of the stress.

“We can cover a lot of ground really fast and the Cobra’s can be pretty intimidating,” said Meisenger, a 36-year-old native of Sugar Grove, Ill. “It’s a show of force to deter the insurgents from doing anything’ the day of elections.”



**Marines unload elections materials off of a CH-53E helicopter Jan. 29, 2005, at Camp Korean Village, Iraq. The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing provided aerial transport of election materials and workers during Iraq’s first free elections in more than 50 years. Photo by Cpl. Joel Chaverri**

The importance of the day required a level of commitment from the Marines not called for on a daily basis.

“Our Marines have worked lot of extra hours,” said Gunnery Sgt. James R. Keller, a 24-year-old native of Bogalusa, La., and staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, HML-367. “They constantly have to be on alert for anything that might happen.”

Even with the long hours and apparent danger threatened by insurgents in their intimidation campaign to deter voters, for the payoff of a successful election made it worth the effort.

“The elections workers were so happy to be with the Marines when we flew them to their elections sites,” said Lt. Col. Bradley S. James, commanding officer, VMGR-452. “It was satisfying to see the happiness on their faces.”

James, a reserve Marine who also flies for United Airlines said he is proud to have played a part in this historic event.

“After I got back, I saw some of the Iraqi’s that voted and they were laughing and smiling,” said the 45-year-old native of Alpharetta, Ga. “That’s when it hit me of how important all of this really is, and it’s just the beginning.”

## Air station’s only flying squadron returns from deployment to Iraq

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A detachment of Marines from Miramar returned from a seven-month deployment, Oct. 4, after supporting operations in Iraq, the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan.

While deployed, Miramar Flight Division’s nine-man detachment assisted in the transport of high-profile passengers and cargo, according to Lt. Col. Russell D. Pharris, detachment officer-in-charge, MFD, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

“We flew missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, moving high-profile passengers,” said Pharris, a 43-year-old Hagerman, Idaho, native. “Most of our time was spent in Afghanistan.”

The detachment flies a UC-35D, more commonly

known as a Citation. The aircraft is manufactured by the Cessna Corporation and has several modifications to accommodate the extreme flight demands the Marine Corps places on the aircraft.

“The UC-35 is an off-the-shelf version of the aircraft used by civilians for transporting executives from corporations,” said Capt. Michael T. Martin, pilot, MFD. “This plane is the newest of the Cessna 500-series.”

Not all pilots or crew are from MCAS Miramar.

“Some of our pilots and aircrew augmented from different organizations throughout the Marine Corps,” added Martin. “Major Pete McConnell came to us from New Orleans and Maj. Matt Gaier is a reservist from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.”

The detachment is unique and their mission is diverse. They are the only flying squadron aboard the air station that belongs specifically to the air station and not a Marine aircraft wing.



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Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as environmental and safety concerns. PMO attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice.

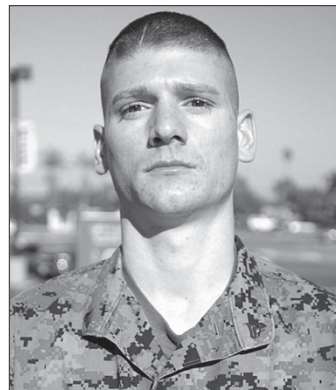
For more information, please call 577-1276 or 577-4150.

## MIRAMARKS

“What was the most significant event of 2005?”

**CPL. MICHAEL STILES**  
Training NCO  
MALS-11

“The progress we made in Iraq is the most significant thing that happened. A few people frown on what were doing but a lot of the Iraqi people appreciate what we have done for them.”



**CPL. BRIAN CARDRANT**  
Bulk Fuels Specialist  
H&HS

“Hurricane Katrina has affected everybody in the nation tremendously. A lot of people lost their homes.”

## FLIGHT JACKET

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Commanding General  
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



**BRIG. GEN. CARL B. JENSEN**  
Commander MCABWA  
Commanding General  
MCAS Miramar

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**Capt. Al Eskalis**  
Public Affairs Deputy Director

**Gunnery Sgt. Matthew L. Sewell**  
Public Affairs Chief

**Sgt. John L. Zimmer III**  
Internal Information Chief

**Cpl. Paul Leicht**  
Layout



# 3rd MAW completes longest deployment

Story compiled by 3rd MAW PAO

ALASAD, Iraq — The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing has completed its longest deployment of its 62-year history.

The Miramar, Calif.-based command arrived in February 2004 at this former Iraqi air base to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, deploying more than 13,000 service members and more than 200 aircraft over the the 13-month span.

Wing aircraft flew close air and convoy support missions and ground support units escorted convoys and kept aircraft well maintained and in the air.

The command was based primarily at Al Asad, located about 120 miles northwest of Baghdad, and at numerous other forward operating bases across Al Anbar province in western Iraq. The wing saw major combat action over Fallujah in April 2004, in An Najaf in August 2004 and then again in Fallujah during Operation Al Fajr, or “The Dawn” in November 2004.

During the second battle to destroy insurgents in Fallujah, Marine and multinational aircraft supported Iraqi security forces and U.S. Marines and soldiers on the ground with aerial reconnaissance, precision air strikes and casualty evacuation missions.

In a two-week span, multinational force aircraft, comprised mostly of jets and helicopters from 3rd MAW, dropped or launched more than 500 precision-guided munitions against terrorist targets in the city. The airspace above Fallujah was controlled by the Marine Aircraft Wing, which meant managing as many as 25 combat aircraft at a time, aloft over the urban battlefield. In this dense urban environment of nine square miles and more than 10,000 friendly troops in action, there were no incidents of air-to-ground friendly fire.

The wing not only supported combat operations but was also integral in the success of the Iraqi election on Jan. 30, 2005. Wing helicopters and transport planes ferried more than 1,500 Independent Election Commission of Iraq poll workers to voting sites throughout Al Anbar province, enabling the nation to hold its first free election in more than 50 years.

Active duty forces comprised most of the deployed wing, but reserve units played an integral part, deploying as a whole unit or as individual augments. During the first rotation of forces from February to September 2004, reserves comprised approximately 10 percent of the air wing, but during the second rotation, from September 2004 to March 2005, reserve participation shot up to 20 percent.

Not all Marines will be returning with the wing. Sadly, eight Marines died while serving during the deployment and 222



**Sgt. Justin R. Olson, CH-53E Super Stallion crew chief, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, watches for obstacles as his helicopter touches down on an island on the Euphrates River, June 13. The 25-year-old Broadus, Mont., native, and his fellow crewmembers picked up a group of service members sent to the island to interact with the local populace to gather intelligence about the area. *Photo by Sgt. Nathan Laforte***

were injured.

The deployment in statistics:

- 40 million pounds of cargo transported
- More than 100,000 passengers ferried across the country
- More than 75,000 flight hours flown
- Driven more than 400,000 miles for various convoy operations that carried over 61 million pounds of cargo.
- Provided security for over 5,400 metric tons of unexploded ordnance.
- Disposed of over 2 million pounds of enemy ordnance
- More than 1,000 security patrols conducted
- Pumped in excess of 25.5 million gallons of fuel to support combat operations throughout the theater
- Executed more than 200,000 air traffic operations at the various airfields and forward operating bases.

On March 1, 3rd MAW transferred the aviation authority and responsibility for western Iraq to 2nd MAW based at Cherry Point, N.C. This is 2nd MAW’s first deployment as a wing for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## Miramar Youth Center Parents’ Nite Out

(forthcoming dates\*)

**Jan. 14, 2006**

**Feb. 18, 2006**

**Mar. 18, 2006**

**Apr. 15, 2006**

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
For children 6 weeks - 11 years old  
Cost: \$10 per child

\*dates subject to change

# 3rd MAW changes command during ceremony

Story by Sgt. J. L. Zimmer III

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing's commanding general will relinquish command of the unit in a ceremony Aug. 5 on the air station flight line.

The wing's commanding general since May 29, 2004, Maj. Gen. Keith J. Stalder will hand the reins of 3rd MAW to Maj. Gen. Samuel T. Helland.

Stalder will become the commanding general of Training and Education Command, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va.

As the wing's commanding general, Stalder oversaw the completion of the longest deployment in the 62-year 3rd MAW history. The command arrived at Al Asad, Iraq, in February 2004 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, deploying more than 13,000 servicemembers and more than 200 aircraft over the course of 13 months.

Under Stalder, wing Marines and aircraft saw major combat action over Fallujah and Najaf. In addition to combat operations, the wing was integral to the success of Iraq's first free election in more than 50 years, held on Jan. 30, 2005.

Soaring above the air station for the final time in a VMFA-242 F/A-18D Hornet Aug. 3, "Bat Six-Three's" impact on the wing will be long lasting according to Master Gunnery Sgt. John F. Meagher, G-1 chief, 3rd MAW.

"The man had a vision for 3rd MAW. I wish he could stay and see his ideas come to fruition," said Meagher. "The man is a warrior, and I am thankful to have served forward in Iraq with him."

Arriving from duty as the commander of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, Helland began his military career by enlisting in the Army in 1968. He served for three years with Army Special Forces, leaving after a combat tour of duty in Vietnam. Helland graduated from Marine Officer Candidates School in 1973, and was designated a Naval



**In a gesture of good humor, a P-19 firetruck from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Section, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, sprays down an F/A-18D Hornet from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Aug. 3 after Maj. Gen. Keith J. Stalder landed the jet for the last time as commanding general of 3rd MAW. Stalder's next assignment will be commanding general of Training and Education Command, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va. *Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III***

aviator in 1974 before serving as a qualified CH-53 Super Stallion pilot.

Helland's career assignments include tours of duty with amphibious units, aviation combat elements, and joint task

forces. He has participated in exercises and operations ranging from the Arctic Circle to the Persian Gulf, where he saw combat again during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.



# Commander reaches 5,000 mishap-free flight hours

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

There are many goals a person can accomplish in the span of 5,000 hours; earn a masters degree, write a book, or travel around the world a few hundred times.

In the case of the commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 5,000 hours were spent behind the controls of more than 15 different aircraft over a span of 25 years.

Col. Earl S. Wederbrook reached this landmark achievement March 11, when he completed a flight at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

"This (milestone) is a testament to Marine aviation," said the 50-year-old Bainbridge, Ga., native. "This was nearly 5,000 times that Marine aviation did everything right and, of course, this is mishap-free.

"This means 4,200 times there was a 19-year-old plane captain doing (his job) right and a 20-year-old final checker doing everything right."

Wederbrook's modest demeanor makes clear he is more proud of his Marines and squadrons for doing their job, rather than his personal achievement.

"For me it is a milestone, personally, but professionally I take pride in what this really represents; all the Marines I have worked with for the past 20 years flying," he said. "It shows that they were dedicated to their job."

According to Lt. Col. Philippe D. Rogers, commanding officer, Headquarters Squadron, MAG-11, Wederbrook is a talented pilot with a lot of knowledge of flying to pass on to junior aviators.

"He is a very experienced pilot and recently flew combat missions with (Marine Fighter Attack Squadron All Weather 242), in Iraq," Rogers, an Alexandria, Va., native, said. "He has also supported 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in combat operations in Fallujah."

Wederbrook, however, gives most of

the credit for his achievement to the work done by his subordinates, but he added that his devotion to flying helped him reach the 5,000-hour mark as well.

"Opportunities were there and I never turned down a (flight). This (meant) being available for the early flights and the late flights and working the weekends," he said.

Wederbrook threw advice out to all new pilots, remarking they should do whatever it takes to reach their goals.

"As a new guy, take whatever they give you and never turn down a hop," he added. "If it's the early or late flight, jump on it."



Col. Earl S. Wederbrook (left), commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, is presented an award March 11 from the commandant of the Marine Corps for completing 5,000 mishap-free flight hours, by Lt. Col. Russel Emons, commanding officer, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, MAG-11, on the flight line at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. *Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III*

## Get Noticed by Motorists...



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MARINE CORPS ORDER 5100.19E STATES:

"During periods of reduced visibility, and before morning colors and after evening colors, personnel shall wear retro-reflective clothing, vest or belt when conducting physical training or exercising on or near roadways."

It's not just a good idea  
IT'S THE LAW



# GUARDING THE HEAVENS

**Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III**

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

**O**n Feb. 11, 1988, then Lt. Col. Warren North took command of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Sadly, on June 8, North departed this world to “guard the streets of heaven.”

On July 11, 2005, the “Seaelks” of HMM-166 saluted their

squadron’s second commanding officer by fulfilling one of his last requests – to have his ashes spread out to sea from the back of a CH-46E Sea Knight.

Lieutenant Col. J.K. Arruda, the squadron’s current commanding officer was on hand to accept North’s remains from his wife Bonnie North.

“We were honored to do this for him and his family,” said Arruda, an Edgewood, Ky., native. “It was very appropriate for this squadron

to spread his ashes because he was a former CO.”

For the family, the event brought the death of a great leader and great Marine to a final close.

“It was perfect. We were very happy with it,” said Carrie North, daughter. “It was better than what we imagined. It was such a fitting tribute to my dad. He loved the Marines and he loved flying.

“Being the CO of HMM-166 was probably his favorite command, so having his ashes spread

from a CH-46 was very fitting,” Carrie added. “He would have been so proud.”

Bonnie North said her husband’s last mission would help her remember him.

“The ceremony was awesome. It was Warren’s last mission and it was sad. But now when I go to the Pacific, I know he is there,” Bonnie said. “When I heard the Marines take care of their own, they really do. It had no meaning before, but it hit home during the ceremony.



**Lt. Col. J.K. Arruda, commanding officer, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, salutes Bonnie North, wife of Col. Warren North, after his remains were spread out to sea from the back of a CH-46E Sea Knight. Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III**

The Marines treated him with respect,” she continued. “I can’t believe the trouble everyone went through for my husband.”

Corporal Sean D. Green, crew chief, HMM-166, was responsible for spreading North’s remains into the ocean.

“I was honored to do something like this,” Green said. “This has been the only squadron I have been part of, so to be able to spread the ashes of a former CO is the least I could have done.”



# 'Sound of Freedom' roars over Miramar skies



Spectators were treated to a blast of heat as the "Great Wall of Fire" blazed on the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar flight line at the 2005 Miramar Air Show. Billed as the largest man-made wall of flame, the "Great Wall of Fire" set a Guinness world record in 2000 and continues to wow crowds today. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

With the deafening scream of jets flying overhead and the blinding flash of a 1,000-foot wall of fire, the 2005 Miramar Air Show presented a wide array of military and civilian aircraft demonstrations and static displays at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Oct. 14 - 16.

Approximately 750,000 spectators attended the three-day air show to witness the spectacular performances and displays of U.S. military might.

"I think people can appreciate more of what the military does by seeing a show like this," said John Varley, owner of an Antonov AN-2P, known as the "Big Yellow Panda," on static display at the air show.

The air show featured more than 130 static displays of various civilian and military aircraft of foreign and domestic origin. With more than 20 flight performances daily, including the world-famous U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, onlookers' eyes were glued to the sky.

"It was a great show," said Varley, an Anaheim, Calif., native. "I've always loved aircraft since I was little, especially the Blue Angels."

In addition to state-of-the-art civilian and military aircraft, the air show also gave visitors a brief look into the past at the history of aviation with static displays dating back to before World War II, like the B-17 Flying Fortress.

"The plane is a Boeing aircraft designed in 1934 and flew between the years 1935 and 1945," said Donald R. Sutherland, a volunteer at the Palm Springs Air Museum - home of the B-17 that was on display. "There are only 13 of these planes left flying. There is one in England, one in France and 11 here in the states. This is one of those 11."

The Miramar Air Show is unique in that in addition to many different aircraft in flight and on display, spectators were treated to a simulated Marine Air-Ground Task Force assault.

Whether it was their first air show or 50th, the 2005 Miramar Air Show wowed the young and young at heart. Whatever the case, age was not a factor as the "Sound of Freedom" rang loud and clear over San Diego for yet another year.



# Miramar firefighter named best in Corps

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

Fire Captain Paul J. Tompkins, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Fire Department, received the 2004 Marine Corps Civilian Firefighter of the Year award June 6 at MCAS Miramar.

Tompkins received his award for bringing Miramar's fire and fuels management program up to nationally recognized standards of wildland fire management.

We are required by the Marine Corps to have a management plan to manage the large area of burnable acreage in our wildlands out here," said David H. Allen, assistant fire chief, Miramar Fire Department. "Captain Tompkins basically volunteered to head that up because he had some background in wildland fires and developing plans for field breaks and fire roads."

Although a fire management plan had to be created regardless of who did it, Tompkins' name was not drawn out of a hat.

"He has been working with me for a number of years now," said Allen. "He's one of my best firefighters and crew leaders. He is a very reliable, conscientious and organized person. He is able to accomplish both his normal mission and any extra collateral duty that he is taking on at that time."

According to Tompkins, several methods are used to complete his mission.

"When I'm given a task, I research it, draw information from other sources and attend training to educate myself on the subject matter if necessary," said Tompkins, a Burbank, Calif., native. "I have to attempt to fully understand my overall mission and then set clear goals and objectives."

However, succeeding enough to gain the Marine Corps Civilian Firefighter of the Year award is not an individual effort.

"It is really a nomination of the entire Miramar Fire Department, because what I have been able to accomplish here is not an individual effort, but outstanding support



**Fire Captain Paul J. Tompkins stands in front of a fire engine at Station 62 on East Miramar June 16. The fire captain with the Miramar Fire Department received the 2004 Marine Corps Civilian Firefighter of the Year award June 16 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke**

from the rest of the department," said Tompkins. "This was all made possible through the support of our fire chiefs, assistant fire chiefs and all of the other firefighters who implement these programs and projects on the ground."

Although it was in part due to a group effort, his crewmembers feel he is deserving of such an award.

"He is an excellent firefighter and a good friend because he genuinely cares about people," said Mark W. Gordon, firefighter, Miramar Fire Department. "He spends an extraordinary amount of time and effort on and off duty working on various specialized projects for the department."

Even with the amount of time Tompkins puts into the

fire department, he still feels privileged for receiving such recognition from others.

"I feel honored and grateful to be selected from an outstanding group of Marine Corps civilian firefighters from across the country and to be able to represent the Miramar Fire Department," Tompkins concluded. "This award helps gain some recognition for the Miramar Fire Department and for the other agencies to see what an excellent fire department Miramar truly has."

Tompkins is scheduled to attend the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services Awards Banquet in August, where he will compete against the civilian firefighters of the year from the Navy, Army and Air Force for the DoD Civilian Firefighter of the Year award.

## Miramar community remembers Pope John Paul II

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

Members of the Miramar community gathered at the station chapel April 7 to remember the life of Pope John Paul II through reflective prayer and the celebration of mass.

Pope John Paul II died April 2, after a long fight against Parkinson's Disease and other illnesses. He

served for nearly 27 years, the third longest papacy in the history of Catholicism, and was the first non-Italian to serve as the church's leader since Pope Adrian VI assumed the position in 1522. The public viewing of his body in St. Peter's Basilica drew over four million people to Vatican City and became the largest single pilgrimage in the history of christianity.

The pilgrims traveled to Vatican City, while Marines aboard Miramar

attended the memorial for a man whose papacy lasted through five U.S. presidential administrations and was one of the towering political and religious figures of the twentieth century.

"I have a lot of respect and admiration for the man—he did God's work. That is something that is becoming more and more rare today," said Pfc. Santiago Martinez, a Dallas native and maintenance administrator with Marine Aviation

Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. "He had so much love for all the world's people, you can honestly say that he's in heaven now."

The pope was a worldly religious leader, travelling to more than 125 countries during his papacy, as well as speaking eight different languages.

"We're here to celebrate the holy father's life. He was an icon and an

incredibly compassionate man, especially to the poor," said Cpl. Craig W. Northrop, a Waldorf, Md., native, with the Traffic Management Office, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. "He didn't just stay at the Vatican, he got the word of God out himself by connecting to people in their own countries."

The pope's connection reached its way across borders and fences, including the ones around MCAS Miramar.



# Miramar runners finish first in marathon

Story by Lance Cpl. Brandon L. Roach

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

After 26.2 vigorous miles of running through the streets of Washington D.C., Sgt. Jeremy S. Brown, separations non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and Cpl. Tara D. Smith, combat correspondent, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, crossed the finish line of the 30th Anniversary Marine Corps Marathon and put Miramar sports in the spotlight once again.

Brown placed 16th overall and was the first Marine to cross the finish line with a time of 2:35:07.

Miramar athletes have had many accomplishments for themselves and for the Marine Corps, but according to Michele J. Bean, athletics, fitness and aquatics administration assistant, Marine Corps Community Services, one of them stands out in the crowd.

At 6-feet 4-inches tall, Brown is very hard to miss in any crowd but while running in a cross country race, where most runners are less than six feet tall, he towers above all his competitors.

The Las Vegas, Nev., native has been running since he was eight years old. Since then Brown has continued to run for fun. He then turned his running into a training ritual. Brown runs seven days a week, sometimes twice a day and at least 10 miles a day during the week and 15 miles on the weekends.

Brown stopped running for a while and hit the weights, but his high metabolism didn't let him gain weight. This is a great advantage for him while running because he doesn't have to lug around extra weight. Besides running regularly, Brown works on light upper body strengthening to keep fit for the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test.

Brown is known for helping out the other runners on his team, as well as working with fellow Marines from his office to improve their run times.

"I see him taking these younger Marines under his wing and putting his own time aside to help them succeed," said Bean.

"Brown is an outstanding athlete and has helped blast Miramar into the spotlight of the All-Marine sports programs. I am proud to be a part of the program and work with these talented Marines."

Smith was the 20th overall female finisher out of 8,373 women to cross the finish line and the first female Marine to cross the line. Finishing with a time of 3:12:00, she ran a constant pace of 7 minutes and 19 seconds per mile through the grueling 26.2-mile race.

Although an injury to her femur caused by a car accident in high school stopped her from running during high school, she began running again once the bone healed.

Smith has shown her abilities throughout many different marathons while running for the Marine Corps by being the first woman to cross the finish line several times.

"The first time I ran in a race for the Corps was 2004 in the All-Services Cross-Country race held at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where I was the first female Marine finisher," said Smith.

She was then told that she should submit a resume to the All-Marine Cross Country Team, and with one race on her resume she was accepted because she won the race at Camp Pendleton.

Smith then began training with the team coached by Ed Eyestone, a former Olympic marathon runner. She ran eight to 22 miles per day depending on how she felt from the run the day before, but she never ran less than eight miles daily. All Smith's training paid off in her top finish at the Marine Corps Marathon.

"Having talented runners on our team is very lucky for us, especially since we have the fastest female proven many times over at several different races," said Bean.

While recovering from the strenuous run and savoring their victories, Smith and Brown were greeted by Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada, who showed their support and enthusiasm for the two runners by awarding each of them Commandant of



**General Michael W. Hagee (center), commandant of the Marine Corps, congratulates Sgt. Jeremy S. Brown (right), separations noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and Cpl. Tara D. Smith, combat correspondent, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, for their accomplishments during the 30th Anniversary Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. Brown was the first Marine across the finish line, and Smith was the first female Marine to finish the race. Official Marine Corps photo**

the Marine Corps and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps coins.

"I was proud to represent the Marine Corps and the All-Marine team in this run. It was a great opportunity for us to show the world that we are great athletes and we always stick together as a team," said Smith.



Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

**Friday:**  
6:30 p.m. Chicken Little (G)  
9:00 p.m. The Weather Man (R)

**Saturday:**  
6:30 p.m. The Legend of Zorro (PG)  
9:00 p.m. \*Prime (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
1:00 p.m. Dreamer: Inspired By A True Story (PG)  
6:30 p.m. \*Doom (R)

**Wednesday:**  
6:30 p.m. Get Rich Or Die Tryin' (R)

**Thursday:**  
2:00 p.m. \*Dreamer: Inspired By A True Story (PG)  
6:30 p.m. Harry Potter & The Goblet of Fire (PG-13)

\* Indicates the last showing for that film

**Recruiters Need Your Help**

Marines eager to help their recruiters in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska or Wyoming while earning promotion points and being near home for up to 30 days are encouraged to volunteer for recruiters’ assistance. Marines must have a good appearance, be able to honorably represent the Corps in the civilian community and must contact their unit chain of command for permission. For more information, call (515) 253-9347.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service  
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist  
**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. Baptist service  
**Monday-Friday:**  
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass  
**Jewish:**  
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD  
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

**Equal Opportunity Advisors**

The Marine Corps is looking for staff noncommissioned officers (excluding first sergeants and sergeants major) to be Equal Opportunity Advisors.

Assigned as special staff members to commanders at major Marine Corps installations to coordinate and execute the commands Equal Opportunity Program, EOAs provide an important service to all Marines and sailors serving with the Corps.

Commanders should encourage Marines with the ability to take up the challenge to become an EOA following Marine Corps Order 5354.3B which outlines the procedures for EOAs and the application process.

For more information, call (703) 784-9371.

**Arabic 101 Classes**

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is hosting Arabic 101 classes for the 2006 Spring Semester on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday evenings from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. from Jan. 10 to March 28, 2006. The cost is \$26/unit for California residents and active duty personnel and dependents. Active duty may use Tuition Assistance to defray course fees. For more information, call (858) 536-536-4329.

**Jr. NBA/WNBA Basketball**

Registration for junior basketball camp for children ages 6 through 14 has been extended to Jan. 13, 2006. Camp starts Jan. 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the Main Gym.

For more information, call 577-4136.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal’s Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1994 Pontiac Grand Am	CA/3STS043	Unk. Dodge RV	CA/4JVJ367
1994 Nissan Maxima	TX/X26MFL	1973 Chevy Nova	TX/447CVJ
2000 Mitsubishi Galant	CA/3TQY718	1987 Toyota Celica	CA/2GUH953
1984 Chevy Corvette	CO/754JZW	1973 Datsun 240Z	CA/4RGC082
1990 Chrysler New Yorker	WI/402CPD	2001 Ford Focus	CA/5NYB483
1997 Ford Mustang	CA/3WAL501	1987 Dodge Colt	CA/2PTS599